

From the Senate: DANIEL K. AKAKA, JESSE HELMS, ERNEST F. HOLLINGS, DANIEL K. INOUE, TED STEVENS, STROM THURMOND, and JOHN WARNER.

As we go about remembering those who died in service, I hope we will also remember those who are still with us. Each month over 38,000 World War II veterans die. Our veterans are our nation's heroes. Whether a Private or a General, combat veteran who served on the front lines, a nurse in a MASH unit, or the quartermaster who was stateside during war—our veterans deserve to be remembered and honored by our country and by each of us. We need to make sure every eligible veteran who goes to a Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital or clinic for medical care is treated with compassion and respect and gets good medical care. We also need to make sure that we do a better job with those whose conditions mean their care is palliative and not curative.

During a Government Reform Committee hearing in October 1999, we learned that the VA had an initiative to improve their hospice programs. We heard from such experts as Dr. Ira Byock and Dr. Judith Salerno as well as Dannon Brinkley who founded Compassion in Action—a non-profit foundation that trains hospice volunteers to serve in VA hospitals. I am pleased that in four short years this organization has been able to train 4,000 hospice volunteers who last year provided 27,000 hours of service to veterans.

Americans who volunteer through Compassion in Action, the American Legion, the Paralyzed Veterans Association, and the many other volunteer service organizations at the VA are also our heroes. Many of these volunteers are veterans as well and continue to serve their country as brigades of volunteers without whom our VA hospitals could not function. I am pleased that our President is continuing the legacy of the Thousand Points of Light by rejuvenating the call to volunteerism and compassion through service.

#### NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK

### HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2001

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this is National Safe Boating Week. In the year 2000, over 72 million Americans participated in recreational boating activities. However, between 700 and 800 Americans will be killed in recreational boating accidents this year.

It will take a continued effort by State Boating Law Administrators, Manufacturers, boating safety educators, and the many other organizations involved in boating to decrease the number of Americans killed every year on our waterways.

Today, I would like to ask the cellular telephone industry in the United States to join this effort by designating “CG” as the emergency response number that boaters can use in an emergency to make free calls to the nearest Coast Guard unit.

Over the past decade, more and more Americans are carrying cellular telephones wherever they are—including on their boat. I am pleased to recognize that companies such as Verizon and Alltel wireless allow many of

their customers to call the Coast Guard using “CG. However, the use of “CG is not universal. For example, in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, “CG will reach the Coast Guard if you are using a Verizon phone. However, if you happen to be using a Sprint Cellular phone you reach a recording that says “invalid code entered”; on Cellular One and Nextel you get “call cannot be completed as dialed.” Even within a singular cellular telephone company, designation of “CG for emergency communications is not universal. For example, Verizon has “CG connections in Seattle and Massachusetts, but not in Norfolk, Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, when a boater is in distress they need to be able to reach the local Coast Guard unit as soon as possible. They may not have a VHF radio on board and the only way to reach the Coast Guard is by using their cellular telephone. Time is of the essence, and they can't wait to go through the operator to reach the nearest Coast Guard unit.

Today I would like to call on the U.S. cellular phone industry to designate “CG as the nationwide phone number for boaters to reach the Coast Guard during emergencies using cell phones and to ask them to program their networks to route these calls to the nearest appropriate Coast Guard facility. They too can join the coalition of people in the United States striving to save boaters lives.

The Coast Guard has a template agreement that they have been successfully implemented around the country. Once all of these companies are on board, we can initiate a boating safety campaign to educate the boating public about the universal access to “CG during emergencies.

Please help us save lives by establishing a national “CG system.

Mr. Speaker, I submit for the record an article about Verizon Wireless use of “CG in the Seattle area.

#### VERIZON WIRELESS LINKS BOATERS TO COAST GUARD

#### DON'T CAST OFF WITHOUT YOUR WIRELESS PHONE

SEATTLE, May 2 /PRNewswire/—With the official arrival of a new boating season on May 5, Verizon Wireless reminds boaters that it offers its customers a direct connection to the U.S. or Canadian Coast Guard by dialing “CG (\*24) from their Verizon Wireless phone. There is no access fee to use “CG. Airtime is deducted from customers' calling plan bundle.

“While VHF-FM maritime channel 16 should be used as the primary means for reporting an emergency,” said Kelly DeLaney, Verizon Wireless regional president, “our extensive marine coverage gives boaters another reliable means of communication while on the water that increases convenience and enhances safety and security. Boaters can use “CG to get help if there is an emergency, or to pass along information about a navigational hazard that could endanger boats.”

Just as wireless users are encouraged to exercise caution when driving and dialing onshore, boaters should keep safety in mind when navigating and dialing.

To recognize National Safe Boating Week, May 19 through May 25, Verizon Wireless asks all boaters to think “safety,” by following these tips:

Safe boating is your first priority. Make sure your phone is positioned where it is easy to see and reach.

Use the speed dialing features on your phone to program frequently called numbers.

Let your wireless network's voice mail pick up your calls when you're unable to answer the phone. If you're heading into a navigational hazard, it's easy to retrieve your messages later.

Use your wireless phone to notify those on shore of your whereabouts and destination.

#### NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1) to close the achievement gap with accountability, flexibility, and choice, so that no child is left behind:

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, as the father of two young children in the public school system, I have a vested interest in supporting any measures that will further strengthen the current system. Ensuring that our children have access to every educational opportunity necessary to achieve is my top priority in Congress.

The provisions contained in H.R. 1 will give states and local school districts the flexibility and decision-making authority they need to address the individual needs of their students and teachers. Paperwork mandates and regulations force states and local school districts to sacrifice student achievement in order to comply with bureaucracy; thus, taking time away from teaching. Giving state and local officials additional flexibility helps them tailor programs to more closely meet students' unique needs and priorities—whether it be through additional focus on teacher training and professional development or additional funding for technology needs or class size reduction. I firmly believe that local school districts, not Washington, know best what the needs of our children are and although the federal government can and should play an important role in our education system, it should not be the guiding force.

In Michigan and throughout the country, an alarming number of children enter school without the language and literacy foundation necessary to succeed in school. Many children are incapable of deciphering that letters make up words and that words carry meaning. This problem spans all socioeconomic backgrounds and leads to children entering school behind their classmates before they even get started. Therefore, I am extremely pleased by the enormous step forward H.R. 1 takes toward focusing on effective, proven methods of reading instruction and triples federal literacy funding from the present \$300 million to \$900 million in 2002. Furthermore, this legislation authorizes \$5 billion over the next five years on reading programs for children between kindergarten and third grade.

At a time when our economy is slowing and we are facing fiscal restraint here in Washington, our commitment to funding education has never been stronger. H.R. 1 provides for a \$4.6 billion increase, which represents an eight percent increase over current year funding for K–12 programs. This is funding that is primarily directed toward the economically disadvantaged. While dollars alone are not the